

sometimes once a week, and sometimes stayed all night, had seen him sitting by her side and once saw him in bed with her. Laura left my house on a Friday morning, May last, the prisoner was at my house on the Sunday previous, and stayed about an hour, he talked with her then, he was also at my house on the Wednesday before that Friday; I was absent when he got there, on my return I found them sitting tolerably close together near the fireplace, this was about 12 noon, he left before dinner. The night before she disappeared, I went to bed leaving Laura still up. About an hour before day, she got up, went out, and stayed a few minutes, when she came back, she went to the chest, and I thought, opened it, I then thought she went to bed again, when I woke afterward, I found she was not in her bed, this was about daylight. I looked out and found my mare gone from the tree where she was used to be tied up of nights, there being no stable. The rope with which she was tied was also gone. I looked for the mare's track, it was a peculiar one, made by one of her hooves which I had commenced to trim, but left unfinished, with a sharp joint to it. I found the track and followed it along the road leading from my house to A. Scott's house, to the Bates' place; I saw the track until I got to the old field at Bates' place where I lost it; then went to James Scott's, and got breakfast, then I went to James Melton's got there about 8 in the morning Anne Melton was in bed, her clothes off. I stayed a quarter of an hour then went to several places without learning of my daughter. Stayed all night at Frances Melton's, and on going home the next morning, found my mare there. The rope on her had been broken, about two feet of it left on her, the end frazzled up. About four weeks afterward, I found the other piece of rope tied to a dogwood tree at the Bates' place. The ends fitted, I know the rope, I made it. I found the piece of rope about 70 yards from where I lost the mare's trail in the old field. The dogwood to which it was tied was in the bushes. I saw the corpse of Laura, knew it by the teeth, and by the shape of the face, which looked natural, I recognized her clothes, she had two dresses, one store clothes, the other, house made. I know her shoes, had a hole in them which I remember, James Melton made them, I recognized her fine tooth comb. Before leaving home, she had boils about her shoulder. The prisoner